
DEFINITION

Room and board describes a situation where, in exchange for a fee, a person is provided with a place to live and meals.

Public Act 218 defines an Adult Foster Care (AFC) home that provides all of the following:

- Supervision
- Personal care
- Protection
- Room and board
- For 24 hours a day, five or more days a week, and for two or more consecutive weeks.

Note: Twenty-four hours a day means the licensee or staff are available to provide services to the resident and does not mean the licensee and/or staff must be with the individual 24 hours a day.

Example: All residents leave the home for a day program. The staff would not necessarily have to be in the home while all residents were at the day program but would be required to return if a resident came back early for any reason or could not attend because the resident was sick.

Public Act 557 of 2018, redefines what qualifies as an AFC home and requirements to be licensed. Any home with three or more unrelated persons who are aged, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or physically disabled is classified as an AFC home and is required to be licensed.

As of March 28, 2019, LARA will no longer accept new applications with the capacity of one or two residents. The revised definition of an Adult Foster Care Family Home capacity is at least three but not more than six residents. An AFC Small Group Home is at least three but not more than 12 residents.

With the new policy changes, homes with one or two residents are not considered an AFC home and the individuals could qualify for Home Help services.

**Home Help in
Room and Board
Settings**

Note: Home Help services **cannot** be approved if a client is residing in a licensed or an unlicensed foster care home. A referral

must be made to the Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS) at phone number 1-866-856-0126 about a potential unlicensed setting.

If a room and board setting is **not** in violation of Public Act 218, Home Help may be approved if the client meets the eligibility criteria. Do **not** include hours for meal preparation.

Home Help Providers in Room and Board Settings

The individual selected to provide Home Help services **cannot** be one of the following:

- The individual who owns, leases, or rents the home unless they are related to the client.
- The employees or relatives of the individual who owns, leases, or rents the home.

The owner of the home must **not** benefit financially from the Home Help payment to the individual caregiver or agency provider. There must not be any legal affiliation between the individual caregiver or agency provider and the holder of the lease. The client must select an individual caregiver or agency provider for Home Help services who is not connected to the owner. An exception to this rule is if the owner is a relative to the client.

Supported Independent Settings

Supported Independent Setting (SIP) are homes supervised by Community Mental Health (CMH) with three or four residents **all** receiving CMH services. SIP homes do not need to be licensed unless one of the residents is not receiving CMH services. Residents of a SIP home could qualify for Home Help services. The person who owns, rents, or leases the SIP home cannot be the individual caregiver or agency provider of the Home Help client. See [ASM 125, Coordination with Other Services](#).

Example: Wise Home has four residents who receive CMH services. Wise Home is considered a SIP home because all of the residents have CMH services and will **not** be required to be licensed. The residents of the Wise Home could qualify for Home Help services.

Example: Ted's Home has four residents. Three of the residents receive CMH services and the fourth resident does not. Ted's Home is **required** to be a licensed AFC home and **cannot** be considered a SIP home. The residents of Ted's Home would **not** qualify for Home Help services.

Note: If a room and board setting or assisted living setting meets the conditions described in the second example, they may be in violation of Public Act 218. The adult services worker must make a referral to the BCHS.